APPENDIX F.

SUMMARY OF DEWAN'S CONCLUDING REMARKS AT THE MYSORE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY ON THE 14TH OCTOBER 1916.

GENTLEMEN,

After five days' discussion, I find we have been able to dispose of 211 subjects out of a total of 335. The 82 local and 21 supplementary subjects have been dealt with as also all important general subjects. We have agreed that the remaining 124 subjects, which are comparatively unimportant may be taken up at the next session.

As on previous occasions, the discussions were conducted with ability and enthusiasm although, in one or two instances, the language used by members was, as stated by Mr. A. Ramanna, more expressive than measured.

I have to express regret that, as the time at our disposal was limited, individual representations could not be given freer scope.

IMPORTANT SUBJECTS DISCUSSED.

Coming now to the more important subjects discussed, the regulation of water-supply under tanks and canals has received some attention during the year. Government are anxious that the water distribution should be done scientifically instead of by rule of thumb. The Special Irrigation Engineer has been dealing with 8 tanks and a set of suitable rules giving practical hints on the subject has been drawn up for the information of the public.

As promised by me last year, the question of the restricting the *atchkat* of tanks in proportion to the storage available is receiving attention. Five or six tanks are being surveyed. If the representatives of the people want more rapid progress, it will be necessary to put on additional establishment to expedite the work. The subjects may be discussed again at the next session.

The subject of water rate on inam lands was argued with much ability. Following the precedents in other Provinces, we have sanctioned payment of commission at the rate of 12 per cent to the inamdar which ought to sufficiently compensate him. Government charge only 6 per cent for similar service when they take over the management of inam villages. New irrigation works are often commercial enterprises on which Government must realise a suitable return. No valid reason was put forward to show why Government should sell water at lower than its market rate to inam lands.

As regards the restoration of minor tanks, the share which the raiyats have to contribute was settled with your consent a couple of years ago. I am sorry to learn that full advantage has not yet been taken of the concession. Although it is too early to judge of the working of rules, Government have no objection to authorise the Deputy Commissioners to recover the raiyats' contribution in instalments spread over from three to five years.

The increase of emoluments to patels and shanbhogs has been under discussion for a long time. The Financial Department consider that the increase is inadmissible. Some few among you have stated that the appointments are coveted for the prestige attaching to them. The subject is beset with difficulties and must be kept under investigation till a proper solution is reached.

Government are anxious to deal with the settlement of inamdars' claims to toddy revenue within the next two or three months. They have definitely come to the conclusion that tree-tax on trees situated in inam villages should be paid to the privileged inamdars and that in Government villages to Government. The question as to how the claims already admitted should be dealt with is receiving consideration.

With regard to the contribution for building reading rooms in villages, I may say at once that, without increasing the total annual expenditure under this head, Government see no objection, at least for the present, to increase the grant in individual cases from one-third to one-half.

You brought to notice certain defects in the Muzrai Administration. The whole question has been thoroughly investigated by a Committee and the Muzrai Superintendent, and certain conclusions have been arrived at, which, it is expected, will greatly improve the working of the Muzrai Institutions in future. A Government Order on the subject is expected to issue almost immediately.

Last year, you agreed to legislation for the enforcement of weekly labour in villages or the levy of a cess instead. This year, you have gone back on that decision. Every large improvement requires some measure of sacrifice or submission to discipline. Government consider that it will not be possible to keep up continuous interest or activity in the scheme without legislation.

The subject of the separation of executive and judicial functions has given rise to sharp differences of opinion. It is, however, under active consideration and Government are anxious to reach a solution. The chief difficulty is one of cost.

In the matter of weights and measures, the Chamber of Commerce is being consulted. Government are willing to give facilities if private parties come forward to take up the work.

Government are aware of the strong feeling that exists about the delay in providing new telegraph offices in the State. We have made a representation to the Government of India. A meeting is to be held shortly in Bangalore to consider how our immediate requirements might be met.

In regard to the defects brought to notice in the administration of primary schools, Mr. Shama Rao has explained the difficulties of the Department on account of a large and sudden increase in the number of schools. In a matter like this, I must bespeak a little patience on the part of the public. Most of the difficulties are now removed and Government are doing all they can, by sanctioning additional inspecting staff and in other ways, to further improve matters.

The complaint as to want of seats in High Schools and Colleges has been met by the Inspector-General of Education who stated that there was not a single case in which a qualified student was refused admission in the current year. He has been requested to see that troubles of this kind will not recur.

Many of you were present the other day when His Highness the Maharaja inaugurated the first meeting of the Mysore University Senate. I am sure you will all take a patriotic interest in the growth of our University and help its work by providing endowments, if necessary, for students coming from your own localities. At least 10 students should be maintained at the University from each taluk.

Government are giving some facilities to encourage young men from the backward communities to take more largely to education and also to enable them to get admission into the public service in greater numbers than have been the case hitherto. It must be remembered that these classes have not yet acquired the habit of educating themselves and some temporary inducements are necessary. I have no doubt the public as a whole will commend the action taken by Government.

As regards railway development, Government are anxious to arrange for a connection to Bhatkal on the West Coast and to take up the Nanjangud-Erode link. For the rest, if any railways are brought near our borders, we may give connections from our railway system if they are to our advantage. We can only build such lines as are calculated to promote the permanent interests of the State as a whole.

For the past forty years, the urban population of our State in proportion to the rural, has been going down, first on account of famine and then plague. We want more town population in order to carry on the higher work of civilisation. Extensions should be marked out in every town, and building sites, and sites for industrial suburbs should be kept ready. Settlers and industries may be slow in coming but, if the sites are there, the most formidable obstacle in the way of increasing population and business activities will have been removed.

New Outlook.

I have drawn attention to the changing conditions of the times. Progress means work and work must be done by somebody, either by Government agency or by an organisation of the people. There is no other short cut. I have in my hand, a statement showing at least 20 cases in which you have asked for new schemes or new facilities in the interests of the public, which will cost many lakhs to comply with; but there is not a single suggestion for increase of revenue. You consider all increase of establishments as an unmitigated evil. You want many things. You do not pause to enquire how the cost is to be met. Now that you are going to discuss the budget for the next session, I trust you will take up a more practical attitude in future.

Whatever might have been the case in the past, there is no antagonism of interests between the officials and the non-officials at present. Many of the officers have to do their regular duties and also help in the new developments. They have risen splendidly to the occasion and been very zealously doing the people's work. We owe such officers a deep debt of gratitude.

In my opening address, I have explained that all the development activities of the country may be brought under three heads, *viz.*,

(1) Developments in administration,

(2) Economic development, and

(3) Civic and social progress.

The first has to be attended to by the Government officers aided by the people, the second by the people aided by Government and the third exclusively by the people. In future, we want the people of each taluk, town and village to give up petitioning, and to take an increasing responsibility for supplying local needs themselves. You have local conferences at which you may ask for co-operation from officers. We are trying to fix standards of the level of development which taluks, towns and villages should aim at, and we trust, in course of time, to have experts all over the country who would be able to survey each local area, and assess its percentage of efficiency.

Self-help and Organization.

I will mention an instance or two of how large improvements might be effected by local effort and organization. Government are desirous of giving power to local bodies to borrow money by guaranteeing interest with the aid of a cess raised in the localities themselves. Suppose, in a taluk like Tirthahalli, the Board was able to levy a cess which brought an income of Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 annually; the Board will be able to borrow from the residents in the taluk itself a sum of over Rs. 3 lakhs and lend it to influential committees or other organizations to carry out tank improvements, roads, water-supply, drainage, etc., within the taluk. The persons benefited will be able to repay in due course and till then the proceeds of the cess would go to meet interest charges. The restoration of old tanks and construction of new ones is a crying want. The tanks were originally constructed by local people and there is no reason why, with training and organization, the people of to-day should not take up similar responsibilities. If an organized attempt is made in this way, important works will be carried out in taluks, which fifty years of petitioning and dependence on Government will not effect. A similar attempt might be made for the improvement of the *Malnad* region. There is money in the country, labour can be imported and a few years' training will give all the special skill required for developing the ordinary public works of the area.

Conclusion.

Gentlemen, we have now agreed that the second session should be held in fourth week of April and that it may last about four days. His Highness the Maharaja was graciously pleased to order this morning that the courtesy of granting *lavajama* to members should be extended to the second session also. As regards the discussion of the budget, facilities will be provided to members to obtain all reasonable information. If some of you specialise in different branches of administration it will tend to raise the value of your suggestions and a time will come when Government may, of their own accord, seek your advice.

What is needed from the people is a change of outlook and enthusiastic co-operation with Government. We have Members of Government, all of whom have travelled abroad. Mr. Kantaraj Urs, has, as you know, just returned from the Far East. His Highness the Yuvaraja has travelled both East and West and is taking the lead in many beneficent public movements in the country. His Highness the Maharaja is directing all large developments with an eye to the permanent interests of his people. If the great majority of the population give up the traditional apathy and work on new lines, developments will follow in rapid succession and we can face the future with confidence.